GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6093
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003
AGRICULTURE SUMMIT
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has organized an `Agriculture Summit` on April 3, 2003 in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of participants and the issues discussed therein; and

(c) the outcome of the discussion?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized an Agriculture Summit on 3rd April 2003 in Mumbai to highlight the successes made by few States and Corporates in the Agriculture Sector that could be replicated across India and to give an impetus to the growth of the Agriculture Sector.

(b): As per information given by CII there were over 200 participants in the Summit from Agriculture Input Companies, Supply Chain and Processing Companies including Farmers organization. Mr. Ajit Singh, Union Minister of Agriculture, Government of India delivered the keynote address. Capt. Amarinder Singh, Chief Minister of Punjab, Mr. V. Shobhanadreeswar Rao, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Mahendra Singh, Minister of Agriculture Government of Maharashtra, Mr. S.S. Ahuja, Principal Secretary, Food Processing Industries and Horticulture, Government of West Bengal represented their respective States.

The issues discussed therein included diversification of crops, measures to improve crop productivity, improvements in the Supply Chain to reduce losses, measures to modernize markets and mandis so that farmers get better prices, creating infrastructure including irrigation and specific plans for the next two years. Farmers and Industry need to play a complimentary role to the Government efforts in all the areas of agriculture development.

(c): CII has informed that the following action points emerged during the discussion:-

- Reduction of interest rates for the agriculture Sector especially agriculture machinery,

- Need to revitalize the co-operative system for efficient credit delivery system and marketing,

- Bring Regulations in Contract Farming,

- Kickstart investments in Agriculture Infrastructure especially irrigation,

- Need for Reforms in laws to kickstart growth of the food processing sector − Food laws, Tax laws, Markets, etc,

- Create hybrid-banking infrastructure in rural areas,

- Establish Future Markets and Warehouse Advance Receipts mechanism which shall benefit small farmers,

- Access and upgrade traditional local Rainwater Harvesting Structures,

- Collaborate across multiple levels and players including small farmers and

- Focus on Applied Research.